

separate Congresses. I want to applaud the gentleman from Georgia for his steadfast leadership on this, and I fully support the legislation.

Under Chairman Boehlert's leadership in the 108th and 109th Congresses, Democratic amendments were agreed to, and these amendments now make up sections of H.R. 2850. This bill is the product of good, bipartisan cooperation and has the support of our chairman, Mr. GORDON, from Tennessee.

H.R. 2850 is a good first step, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, leaving most of the time for Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just say that the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007 offered today by my good friend from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY, will provide for research and development of chemical products and processes so as to reduce the use of creation of hazardous substances. Advances in these areas have the potential of reducing the creation of substances that are harmful to our environment.

In particular, H.R. 2850 includes a competitive merit-based grant program to universities to incorporate green chemistry concepts into the curriculum for chemistry and chemical engineering. This will ensure that future generations will consider the importance of green chemistry ideas.

The legislation strives to build a base from which the creation of hazardous substances may be reduced. I look forward to Dr. GINGREY's comments on this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield 6 minutes to Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud sponsor of this legislation, I rise to support H.R. 2850, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007.

I want to thank my colleague on the Science Committee, Dr. BAIRD. I thank him for his kind comments. And certainly I want to thank our chairman, BART GORDON, the ranking member, Mr. HALL of Texas, and all of the members of the Science Committee and staff. Both majority and minority have worked hard to bring this important bipartisan legislation through committee and to the House floor today.

This legislation has passed the House in the 108th and 109th Congresses, and I hope that the third Congress will truly be the charm and we will see H.R. 2850 quickly passed by both Chambers and signed by the President.

Mr. Speaker, chemists can design chemicals to be safe, just as they can

design them to have other properties like color and texture. As chemists design products and the processes by which those products are manufactured, they can and should factor in the possible creation of any hazardous by-products.

This technique of considering not only the process by which chemicals are produced, but also the environment in which they are created, is the basic definition of green chemistry. It is the method of designing chemical products and processes that at the very least reduce, and at the very best eliminate, the use or generation of hazardous substances.

Mr. Speaker, the basic idea is this: Preventing pollution and hazardous waste from the start of a design process is far preferable to cleaning up pollution and waste at a later date. Additionally, the innovation created by this enhanced research will subsequently spur economic growth as developing new products and processes is an integral component of many industries, from fabrics to fuel cells, as an example.

Green chemistry doesn't just help protect our environment, it also protects our workers. The conditions under which chemicals are created and used can present many risks to those who work on their production. But if companies utilize green chemistry, the materials they use will be as benign as possible, vastly improving employee conditions.

Unfortunately, despite all of the promise of green chemistry, the Federal Government invests very little in this area. H.R. 2850 works to remedy this by promoting greater Federal investment in, and coordination of, this important research area. It does so by establishing a program that coordinates Federal green chemistry research and development activities within the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, and the Department of Energy.

Make no mistake, greater Federal attention will encourage universities and academic institutions around this country to train future workers in this exciting technology. H.R. 2850 will achieve this by supporting research and development grants to partnerships between universities, industry and nonprofit organizations. It will also promote education through curriculum development and fellowships that will collect and disseminate information about green chemistry.

In past years, many industries, from chemical companies and pharmaceutical corporations, to carpet manufacturers and biotechnology businesses, have all endorsed H.R. 2850, showing a broad range of support for the merits of this legislation.

This bill is nearly identical to the version passed in the 109th Congress. The companies and corporations that have voiced their strong support for

this bill realize that the advancement of green chemistry is positive for not only their businesses, but also our country's environment, our economy and our Nation's citizens.

The American Chemical Society, a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress, stated in support of H.R. 2850, "Green chemistry means continuously improving process safety and resource efficiency leading to reduced cost, waste and environmental impact. It is the ultimate proof that environmental and economic benefit in chemistry can be optimized simultaneously."

Mr. Speaker, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and green chemistry promises a ton of pollution prevention. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I would just reiterate my commendation to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY, and Mr. HALL for his leadership, and urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee and a cosponsor of the bill, I rise in support of H.R. 2850, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007. I want to commend Dr. GINGREY for his work on this bill.

Partnerships with universities, non-profits, industry and the Federal Government are important for the chemical industry's success. The transfer of technology from federally funded research to industry helps promote innovation, which helps the United States remain competitive in a global economy.

Federal support of green chemistry can produce many benefits. First, companies will be able to produce more products less harmful to humans and the environment. Second, businesses will benefit from the facilitation of green chemistry research by the Federal Government and the subsequent transfer of technology to the private sector.

This bill presents opportunities to reduce impact on the environment while assisting our domestic industry to find new products through innovation.

Recently, Columbia Forest Products, a company in my district, received an award for an innovation in green chemistry. The company produces interior plywood products. In collaboration with Oregon State University, Columbia Forest Products has created a soy-based product to use for its production of plywood, instead of traditional urea-formaldehyde resin.

H.R. 2850 will help create more opportunities for universities and companies to partner in green chemistry innovation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2850, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.